GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7121
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2005
STRETCHER FACILITIES
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Air passengers on stretchers get a raw deal` appearing in the Times of India dated March 24, 2005;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the public sector Airlines in India are considering to withdraw the stretcher facilities; and

(d) if so, the alternative facilities proposed to be provided to stretcher users?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The press report refers to a new regulation which makes it mandatory for airlines operating from European Countries to pay heavy compensations to its passengers for flight delays. Since the flights normally get delayed in order to accommodate stretcher patients, it has been apprehended that this delay may result into withdrawal of stretcher services by the Airlines operating from European countries.

(c): Air India and Indian Airlines have no plans to withdraw the stretcher facilities in their aircraft.

(d): Does not arise.